



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Partnership Technical Advisory Committee

DATE: May 21, 2007

FR: Kenneth Kao

RE: Initial Policy and Programming Issues for the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the nine-county Bay Area, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is responsible for developing and submitting the region's proposed projects for the upcoming 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. In cooperation with the Congestion Management Agencies, MTC will develop the schedule and Policies and Procedures for the 2008 RTIP in the coming months.

There are some policy and programming issues regarding the 2008 RTIP that will be discussed at the Local Streets and Roads, Transit Finance, and Programming and Delivery Working Groups, as well as the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee. The issues include:

- **Better Match RTIP Projects to CTC Priorities**

The region should examine selecting the region's proposed RTIP projects to better match the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) priorities for STIP funds, as specified in section 61 of the STIP Guidelines. These include:

- Projects that complete or fund further components of projects included in the prior STIP;
- Projects that implement the Traffic Congestion Relief Program;
- Projects that are eligible for federal Transportation Enhancement funds;
- Projects that leverage federal discretionary funds; and
- Projects that provide regional funding for interregional partnership projects.

Although not a formal programming policy, the CTC has prioritized highway projects over local road projects in times of constrained funding.

- **Leverage Federal Discretionary Funds**

One possible way of "leveraging federal discretionary funds" is to use RTIP funds as local match to other federal programs, such as the Local Highway Bridge Program. Historically, the region has not used RTIP funds to fund local streets, roads, and bridge projects.

However, doing so would maximize the region's ability to leverage additional federal funds. The groups should also discuss other project types that meet the criteria above. There needs to be a discussion of whether this direction would conflict with CTC's recently low priority assigned to local projects.

- **Use of RTIP Funds for Local Streets and Transit Rehabilitation**

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies RTIP funds as a possible source for Local Streets and Roads Shortfall and Transit Rehabilitation funding needs. These activities are eligible for RTIP funding, and CMAs should work with local jurisdictions and transit operators to determine if RTIP funding should be used to fund these two categories.

- **2008 STIP Development Schedule**

Another issue to discuss is the tentative schedule for the 2008 RTIP. Attached is the schedule based on the statutory deadlines set forth in the STIP Guidelines. In the past two RTIP cycles, the schedule was lengthened in order to deal with the state budgetary crises. This may no longer hold true for the 2008 RTIP. Therefore, the current tentative schedule may seem accelerated. Additional information may become available in discussions with CTC staff in the coming weeks. Notwithstanding any changes from CTC, the schedule puts the CMA's call for projects for this summer, with finalization in the fall. MTC must adopt the RTIP at its November 28, 2007 meeting in order to meet the December 15, 2007 statutory submittal date. The groups should make suggestions and give comments on the tentative schedule.

- **Freeway Performance Initiative**

There should be a discussion regarding how projects proposed for the 2008 RTIP fit in with MTC's Freeway Performance Initiative. A presentation will be given about the Initiative to the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee on May 21.

- **Future STIP Prioritization**

In response to CTC Commissioner concerns regarding MTC exceeding its augmentation highway target, staff has proposed removing San Francisco's US-101 Doyle Drive Replacement project from the RTIP for \$54 million, and making this project the region's top priority in the 2008 STIP. The second priority would go to a regional project resulting in swapping federal funds for Alameda's I-880 Operational and Safety Improvement project at 29th Ave. In order to accommodate San Francisco, as well as the advancement of county shares in Marin and Sonoma Counties (for the US-101 Marin-Sonoma Narrows project), the remaining six counties would have less capacity for programming in the 2008 STIP. Staff proposes that Sonoma pay back this advancement of county share capacity in the 2010 STIP, and Marin in the 2012 STIP by allowing other regionally-significant projects to be advanced from their county shares.

- **Transportation Enhancement Reserves**

Currently, half of the Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds are reserved for MTC's Regional Bike and Pedestrian Program, while the remaining half is reserved for the CMA's discretionary Transportation for Livable Communities program. Since the region's priorities have not yet been determined for the next federal reauthorization (and as a part of the Regional Transportation Plan process), staff proposes holding MTC's portion of half of each county's new TE funds in reserve until such time prioritization can be made.

Additionally, CMAs and Caltrans are reminded of two important policies for the development of the 2008 RTIP:

- **CMAs Notification of All Eligible Project Sponsors**

The CMAs are reminded that they must notify all eligible project sponsors within the county of the availability of RTIP funds. Eligible project sponsors include cities, counties, and transit operators. Notification can be in the form of a call for projects to all eligible project sponsors. Prior board action committing RTIP funds to a specific set of projects may also be sufficient to meet this requirement.

- **Caltrans Notification of Cost Increases**

Caltrans should notify the CMAs and MTC of any anticipated cost increases to currently-programmed RTIP projects by July. This will allow sufficient time to ensure these cost increases are programmed in the RTIP. Ideally, Caltrans should notify the CMAs and MTC of cost increases prior to the call for projects.

Any questions regarding these policy and programming issues should be directed to Kenneth Kao at (510) 817-5768, or kkao@mtc.ca.gov.

Attachments

A – Tentative 2008 RTIP Schedule

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Regional Transportation Improvement Program
2008 RTIP
TENTATIVE Development Schedule
March 30, 2007

April 26, 2007	Caltrans presentation of draft STIP Fund Estimate Assumptions (CTC Meeting – SLO)
May 21, 2007	Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) / Programming and Delivery Working Group (PDWG) review of initial policy/programming issues for 2008 RTIP
June 1, 2007	Local Streets and Roads Working Group (LS&RWG) review of proposed RTIP Policies and Procedures
June 6, 2007	Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) review of proposed RTIP Policies and Procedures
June 7, 2007	CTC adopts STIP Fund Estimate Assumptions (CTC Meeting – Sacramento)
June 18, 2007	PTAC/PDWG review of proposed RTIP Policies and Procedures
July 11, 2007	MTC Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC) review and recommendation of final proposed RTIP Policies and Procedures
July 16, 2007	PTAC review of final RTIP Policies and Procedures
July 25, 2007	MTC Commission adopts RTIP Policies and Procedures
July 26, 2007	Caltrans presentation of draft STIP Fund Estimate to CTC (CTC Meeting – Glendale)
August 15, 2007	CTC adopts STIP Fund Estimate and STIP Guidelines (CTC Meeting – TBD)
September 21, 2007	CMAs submit to MTC, RTIP projects summary listings and identification of projects requiring project-level performance measure analysis
October 10, 2007	MTC PAC review and authorize release of draft RTIP for public comment
October 15, 2007	Circulate draft RTIP for public review comment
October 15, 2007	PTAC review of draft RTIP
October 26, 2007	Final Fact and Fund sheets due to MTC. Final RTIP project listing and performance measure analysis due to MTC. Final PSR (or PSR Equivalent), Resolution of Local Support and Certification of Assurances due to MTC (Final Complete Applications due)
November 14, 2007	PAC review of RTIP and referral to Commission for approval
November 16, 2007	Close of public comment period for RTIP
November 28, 2007	MTC Commission approves 2008 RTIP
December 15, 2007	2008 RTIP due to CTC
January 2008	CTC 2008 STIP Hearing – Southern California (Location and Date TBD)
February 2008	CTC 2008 STIP Hearing – Northern California (Location and Date TBD)
March 12, 2008	CTC Staff Recommendations on 2008 STIP released
April 1, 2008	CTC adopts 2008 STIP (Location and Date TBD)

Shaded Area – Actions by Caltrans or CTC